# **U.S. Census Bureau News**

# Joint Release U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M. EDT

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#### **NEW RESIDENTIAL SALES IN APRIL 2011**

Sales of new one-family houses in April 2011 were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 323,000, according to estimates released jointly today by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This is 7.3 percent  $(\pm 16.6\%)^*$  above the revised March rate of 301,000, but is 23.1 percent  $(\pm 9.7\%)$  below the April 2010 estimate of 420,000.

The median sales price of new houses sold in April 2011 was \$217,900; the average sales price was \$268,900. The seasonally adjusted estimate of new houses for sale at the end of April was 175,000. This represents a supply of 6.5 months at the current sales rate.

New Residential Sales data for May 2011 will be released on Thursday, June 23 2011, at 10:00 A.M. EDT.

Our Internet site is: http://www.census.gov/newhomesales

## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

These statistics are estimated from sample surveys. They are subject to sampling variability as well as nonsampling error including bias and variance from response, nonreporting, and undercoverage. Estimated average relative standard errors of the preliminary data are shown in the tables. Whenever a statement such as "2.5 percent (±3.2%) above" appears in the text, this indicates the range (-0.7 to +5.7 percent) in which the actual percent change is likely to have occurred. All ranges given for percent changes are 90-percent confidence intervals and account only for sampling variability. If a range does not contain zero, the change is statistically significant. If it does contain zero, the change is not statistically significant; that is, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease. The same policies apply to the confidence intervals for percent changes shown in the tables. Changes in seasonally adjusted statistics often show irregular movement. It takes 4 months to establish a trend for new houses sold. Preliminary new home sales figures are subject to revision due to the survey methodology and definitions used. The survey is primarily based on a sample of houses selected from building permits. Since a "sale" is defined as a deposit taken or sales agreement signed, this can occur prior to a permit being issued. An estimate of these prior sales is included in the sales figure. On average, the preliminary seasonally adjusted estimate of total sales is revised about 5 percent. Changes in sales price data reflect changes in the distribution of houses by region, size, etc., as well as changes in the prices of houses with identical characteristics. Explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability can be found on our web site listed above.

Seasonally adjusted estimates for January 2009 through March 2011 have been revised.

<sup>\* 90%</sup> confidence interval includes zero. The Census Bureau does not have sufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.

**Table 1. New Houses Sold and For Sale** 

[Thousands of houses. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]

		Sold during period <sup>1</sup>					For sale at end of period					Median	Average	
	Period	United	North-	Mid-			United	North-	Mid-			Months'	sales	sales
		States	east	west	South	West	States	east	west	South	West	supply <sup>2</sup>	price (\$)	price (\$)
							Sea	sonally ad	justed			-	-	
_														
2009:	January	336	28	52	186	70	341					12.2		
	February	372	31	53	217	71	326					10.5		
	March	339	21	45	198	75	311					11.0		
	April	337 376	20 26	39 50	201 210	77 90	300 291					10.7 9.3		
	May June	393	34	58	195	106	280					8.5		
	June	3/3	34	36	173	100	200					6.5		
	July	411	42	57	215	97	270					7.9		
	August	418	36	56	218	108	261					7.5		
	September	386	35	63	192	96	252					7.8		
	October	396	32	54	215	95	243					7.4		
	November	375	33	73	191	78	237					7.6		
	December	352	39	50	182	81	234					8.0		
2010: <sup>r</sup>	January	346	40	53	175	78	233					8.1		
	February	344	32	51	172	89	230					8.0		
	March April	385 420	33 36	53 55	206 223	93 106	226 217					7.0 6.2		
	May	281	27	40	151	63	217					9.2		
	June	307	33	45	173	56	213					8.2		
		307	55		1,3	50	211					0.2		
	July	279	29	43	163	44	210					9.0		
	August	278	30	32	150	66	206					8.9		
	September	316	35	50	163	68	202					7.7		
	October	282	30	40	162	50	200					8.5		
	November	287	20	35	164	68	196					8.2		
	December	331	22	38	168	103	190					6.9		
2011	January <sup>r</sup>	210	22	42	1.52	72	10.5					7.0		
2011:	February	310	33	42	163	72	186					7.2		
	March <sup>r</sup>	278 301	18 26	31 41	166 161	63 73	184 180					7.9 7.2		
		301	20	41	101	73	180					7.2		
	April <sup>p</sup>	323	28	43	168	84	175					6.5		
Averes	ge RSE (%) <sup>3</sup>		26	22	11	14						0		
Averag	ge KSE (%)	8	26	22	11	14	4					8		
Perce	nt Change:													
		7.3%	7.7%	4.9%	4.3%	15.1%	-2.8%					-9.7%		
	April 2011 from March 2011													
	90% Confidence Interval <sup>4</sup>	± 16.6	± 64.7	± 39.4	± 22.3	± 32.6	± 1.2					± 12.4		
	April 2011 from April 2010	-23.1%	-22.2%	-21.8%	-24.7%	-20.8%	-19.4%					4.8%		
	90% Confidence Interval 4	± 9.7	± 37.6	± 20.7	± 14.8	± 17.1	± 3.5					± 13.1		

See footnotes at end of table.

# Table 1. New Houses Sold and For Sale - Continued

[Thousands of houses. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]

			Sol	d during pe	riod			For sa	le at end of	period			Median	Average
	Period	United	North-	Mid-			United	North-	Mid-			Months'	sales	sales
		States	east	west	South	West	States	east	west	South	West	supply <sup>2</sup>	price (\$)	price (\$)
			1	1	1	1	Not	seasonally	adjusted	-		, ,	1	
2009:		375	31	54	202	87	232	27	38	118	48	(X)	216,700	270,900
2010:		323	31	45	173	74	188	22	27	98	41	(X)	221,800	272,900
												()	,	_,_,,
RSE (9	%)	4	8	14	6	5	3	12	8	5	7	(X)	3	2
2010:	Year to Date	127	11	18	66	32	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
2011:	Year to Date	103	9	13	55	26	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
RSE (9	%)	5	14	12	6	6	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
	Year to Date Percent Change 5	-19.3%	-24.6%	-25.6%	-16.0%	-20.4%	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
	90% Confidence Interval <sup>4</sup>	± 5.7	± 23.7	± 13.4	± 8.4	± 8.6	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
2009:	January	24	2	3	14	5	340	36	55	169	79	14.3	208,600	245,200
2009.	February	29	2	4	17	6	324	35	52	161	76	11.2	209,700	258,600
	March	31	2	4	18	7	311	35	51	154	71	9.9	205,100	259,800
	April	32	2	4	18	7	300	34	50	148	69	9.4	219,200	269,800
	May	34	2	5	19	9	290	33	49	143	65	8.4	222,300	274,600
	June	37	3	6	19	10	282	32	48	140	62	7.6	214,700	274,800
	July	38	4	5	20	9	272	30	46	136	59	7.2	214,200	271,100
	August	36	3	5	19	9	263	30	45	132	56	7.3	207,100	257,800
	September	30	3	5	14	8	254	29	43	130	53	8.4	216,600	290,300
	October	33	3	4	18	8	243	28	42	123	50	7.4	215,100	263,800
	November	26	2	5	14	5	235	27	39	120	48	9.0	218,800	274,700
	December	24	3	3	13	5	232	27	38	118	48	9.6	222,600	278,300
2010:	January	24	3	4	12	5	231	26	37	119	48	9.7	218,200	283,400
	February	27	2	4	13	7	229	26	36	119	47	8.6	221,900	284,100
	March	36	3	5	19	9	227	25	36	118	47	6.3	224,800	262,900
	April	41	4	5	21	10	216	24	35	113	45	5.3	208,300	270,500
	May	26	3	4	14	6	215	24	34	114	44	8.3	230,500	281,100
	June	28	3	4	16	5	213	24	32	111	45	7.5	219,500	256,700
	July	26	3	4	16	4	210	24	31	109	46	7.9	212,100	252,100
	August	23	3	3	12	6	209	23	31	108	46	8.9	226,600	268,800
	September	25	3	4	12	6	204	22	29	109	44	8.2	228,000	270,800
	October	23	3	3	13	4	199	22	29	104	44	8.7	204,200	254,400
	November	20	2	2	12	4	195	22	28	102	43	9.5	219,600	281,700
	December	23	2	3	12	6	188	22	27	98	41	8.3	241,200	291,700
2011:	January <sup>r</sup>	21	2	3	11	5	185	21	25	98	41	8.6	240,100	275,700
	February <sup>r</sup>	22	1	2	13	5	183	21	25	97	39	8.4	217,800	262,700
	March <sup>r</sup>	28	2	4	15	7	181	20	25	97	38	6.5	214,500	250,000
	April <sup>p</sup>	32	3	4	16	8	174	19	25	94	36	5.5	217,900	268,900
Averag	ge RSE (%) <sup>3</sup>	8	26	22	11	14	4	12	13	5	7	8	5	5

Preliminary. Revised. RSE Relative standard error. X Not applicable. Z Less than 500 units or less than 0.5 percent

Note: The sales price includes the land.

 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$ Annual rates.  $^{2}$ Ratio of houses for sale to houses sold.  $^{3}$ Average RSE for the latest 6-month period.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>See the Explanatory Notes in the accompanying text for an explanation of 90% confidence intervals.

<sup>5</sup>Computed using unrounded data.

Table 2. New Houses Sold, by Sales Price

[Thousands of houses. Components may not add to total because of rounding. Percents computed from unrounded figures]

	Period		Under	\$150,000 to	\$200,000 to	\$300,000 to	\$400,000 to	\$500,000 to	\$750,000
		Total	\$150,000	\$199,999	\$299,999	\$399,999	\$499,999	\$749,999	and over
					Number	of houses <sup>1</sup>			
2009:		375	67	96	114	46	23	20	10
2010:		323	55	79	97		21	18	8
2010:		323	33	/9	97	44	21	18	8
RSE (%	6)	4	8	7	6	8	9	14	15
2009:	January	24	5	7	7	3	1	1	(Z)
	February	29	6	7	9	3	2	1	1
	March	31	6	8	10	3	2	2	1
	April	32	6	8	10	4	2	1	1
	May	34	5	9	11	4	3	2	1
	June	37	6	10	11	5	2	2	1
	July	38	6	11	10	5	2	2	1
	August	36	8	9	10	4	3	2	1
	September	30	5	8	10	3	2	2	1
	October	33	6	8	11	4	2	1	1
	November	26	5	7	8	3	2	1	1
	December	24	5	5	7	3	1	2	1
2010:	January	24	5	5	6	3	1	2	1
	February	27	6	6	9	3	1	2	1
	March	36	6	9	11	5	3	1	(Z)
	April	41	7	12	12	5	2	2	1
	May	26	4	7	7	3	2	1	1
	June	28	5	7	9	5	1	1	(Z)
	July	26	4	8	9	3	1	1	1
	August	23	4	6	7	3	2	1	1
	September	25	4	6	9	3	1	1	1
	October	23	5	6	6	3	1	1	(Z)
	November	20	3	5	5	3	1	1	1
	December	23	3	5	6	4	2	2	1
2011:	January <sup>r</sup>	21	3	3	8	3	2	1	(Z)
	February <sup>r</sup>	22	3	6	6	3	2	1	(Z)
	March <sup>r</sup>	28	5	7	9	4	1	1	(Z)
	April <sup>p</sup>	32	5	8	10	4	3	1	1
Averag	e RSE (%) <sup>2</sup>	8	21	18	14	17	28	34	54

# Table 2. New Houses Sold, by Sales Price - Continued

[Thousands of houses. Components may not add to total because of rounding. Percents computed from unrounded figures]

	Period		Under	\$150,000 to	\$200,000 to	\$300,000 to	\$400,000 to	\$500,000 to	\$750,000
	Teriod	Total	\$150,000	\$199,999	\$299,999	\$399,999	\$499,999	\$749,999	and over
					Percent d	istribution		•	
2009:		100	18	26	30	12	6	5	3
2010:		100	17	24	30	14	6	6	3
2009:	January	100	19	28	31	12	6	3	1
	February	100	20	25	30	12	7	5	2
	March	100	20	27	31	10	5	5	2
	April	100	18	24	31	14	7	4	3
	May	100	15	25	32	13	9	5	2
	June	100	17	28	30	12	4	5	3
	July	100	17	28	27	14	5	6	3
	August	100	22	26	28	10	8	5	1
	September	100	15	26	32	11	5	8	3
	October	100	19	24	35	12	5	3	3
	November	100	18	26	31	12	6	3	4
	December	100	19	23	30	13	4	7	5
2010:	January	100	21	21	27	15	6	7	4
	February	100	21	21	33	11	5	6	4
	March	100	18	25	31	13	8	4	1
	April	100	17	29	28	12	5	6	3
	May	100	16	25	29	13	8	5	4
	June	100	17	23	31	18	5	5	1
	July	100	15	29	35	11	4	5	2
	August	100	16	27	31	11	7	6	3
	September	100	16	23	34	13	6	5	2
	October	100	21	27	26	12	6	5	2
	November	100	17	25	26	16	6	6	4
	December	100	13	23	28	18	7	7	3
2011:	January <sup>r</sup>	100	16	16	36	16	8	7	2
2011.	February	100	15	27	29	15	8	5	1
	March <sup>r</sup>	100	20	24	31	16	4	5	1
	April <sup>p</sup>	100	17	26	20	12	o	-	
	ми	100	17	26	30	13	8	5	2

Preliminary. revised. RSE Relative standard error. X Not applicable. Z Less than 500 units or less than 0.5 percent

Note: The sales price includes the land.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Houses for which sales price was not reported have been distributed proportionally to those for which sales price was reported.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Average RSE for the latest 6-month period.

Table 3. New Houses Sold and For Sale by Stage of Construction and Median Number of Months on Sales Market

[Thousands of houses. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]

			Sold duri	ng period				Median		
	Period		Not	Under			Not	Under		months
		Total	started	construction	Completed	Total	started	construction	Completed	for sale <sup>1</sup>
2009:		375	82	107	186	232	31	101	100	14.0
2010:		323	67	107	151	188	27	81	80	7.9
2010.		323	07	104	131	100	21	61	80	1.9
RSE (%)		4	9	4	4	3	5	4	6	8
2009:	January	24	6	5	13	340	40	133	167	9.4
	February	29	6	7	16	324	38	127	159	9.9
	March	31	7	7	17	311	39	120	152	10.2
	April	32	7	8	17	300	39	118	143	10.8
	May	34	10	9	16	290	39	115	136	11.5
	June	37	9	11	18	282	37	116	128	11.9
	July	38	8	12	18	272	35	116	121	12.5
	August	36	8	12	16	263	35	113	115	12.9
	September	30	6	10	15	254	32	112	111	13.2
	October	33	6	11	16	243	30	107	106	13.7
	November	26	6	8	12	235	28	105	101	13.9
	December	24	6	7	11	232	31	101	100	14.0
2010:	January	24	7	7	9	231	30	101	99	13.9
	February	27	7	9	11	229	29	103	96	14.3
	March	36	8	14	14	227	30	104	92	14.4
	April	41	7	15	19	216	29	101	86	14.0
	May	26	5	8	13	215	28	103	85	14.0
	June	28	5	9	14	213	28	102	83	12.3
	July	26	6	8	13	210	27	102	81	11.2
	August	23	5	8	11	209	27	97	84	10.1
	September	25	5	8	12	204	27	94	84	8.8
	October	23	4	7	12	199	26	90	84	8.1
	November	20	4	5	12	195	25	87	82	8.2
	December	23	5	6	12	188	27	81	80	7.9
2011:	January <sup>r</sup>	21	6	6	9	185	27	80	79	7.8
	February	22	6	5	10	183	27	79	77	8.1
	March	28	6	9	13	181	28	80	73	8.7
	April <sup>p</sup>	32	9	8	14	174	28	78	67	8.8
Average	RSE (%) <sup>2</sup>	8	8	10	10	4	9	6	5	8

PPreliminary. FRevised. RSE Relative standard error. X Not applicable. Z Less than 500 units or less than 0.5 percent

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Median number of months for sale since completion.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Average RSE for the latest 6-month period.